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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/008,348	11/08/2001	Ioana Popa-Burke	2104US	3396
22881	7590	08/09/2004	EXAMINER	
PARADIGM GENETICS, INC 108 ALEXANDER DRIVE P O BOX 14528 RTP, NC 27709-4528			GAKH, YELENA G	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1743	

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/008,348	POPA-BURKE ET AL.
	Examiner Yelena G. Gakh, Ph.D.	Art Unit 1743

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-55 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-25 and 42-55 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 26-41 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 08 November 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Election of claims 26-41, filed on 07/20/04 is acknowledged. Claims 1-25 and 42-55 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.
3. Claims 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The specification does not disclose or give any guidance for “updating an indicia with … a measurement”, or having the indicia “operably engaged” with a plate, when the indicia is just a barcode, as disclosed in the specification. No one of ordinary skill in the art would know how to “update” a barcode, which carries unaltered coded information for an item (the plate), or how to “operably engage” it with the plate.
4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
5. Claims 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is not clear, what “updating an indicia with … a measurement”, or “the indicia operable engaged with a plate” might mean. If the indicia is a barcode, as disclosed in the specification, it cannot be changed, unless it is replaced. It is also not clear, how the barcode can be “operably engaged” with the plate? How does it operate?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. **Claims 26-41** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by GlaxoSmithKline, Calvert, 1999.

GlaxoSmithKline, 1999 performs high-throughput and combinatorial methods involving RADICAL (Registration And Design Interface for Combinatorial and Array Libraries), which “provides facile transfer of files to and from equipment such as weighing, QC and purification stations, and of course registration and screening processes” (Hunter, J. Cell. Biochem. Suppl., 2001, page 23, right column). Weighing is performed on Bohdan Balance Automator (see Borman, C&EN, August 21, 2001, page 52), which “generates complete, error-free reports detailed sample I.D., rack number, position, rate weight, gross weight and net weight. The data is stored in a database ” (Mettler-Toledo, Inc. 2001). Robotic arm is transferring vessels from multiwell plate to the weighing device.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In *US 6,514,977 B1* “the Automated weighing/archival Station #3 performs the functions of weighing empty collection vials (to obtain tare weights of collection vials) and also performs the functions of weighing collection vials containing filtered, purified products (to obtain gross weights of collection vials). After product-containing collection vials have been weighed (gross weight determinations) at workstation #3, the collection vial products are optionally redissolved into an organic solvent at workstation #3”; *US 6,399,024* discloses “an autopipettor 90 comprising a pipette head attachment assembly 91, a pipette head 10, and functional tray stations 92. The autopipettor 90 is adapted to functionally engage the pipette

head 10 with the tray stations 92, such as by positioning pipette tips 17 over a station-secured microtiter plate 93. The pipette head 10 comprises a barcode reader 18 for reading, along a sight-path 94, a barcode 95 affixed to the microtiter plate 93. The pipette head 10 is reversibly electro-mechanically coupled to the head attachment assembly 91" (Figure 9); *Reno et al.* (*Anal. Chem.*, 1976) disclose, "automated computer-controlled solution handling system utilizing weights of solution".

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yelena G. Gakh, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-1257. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill A. Warden can be reached on (571) 272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Yelena G. Gakh
8/5/04

Yelena Gakh